

Grade 8 Sample Test Prompt

Sentence Fluency

People run for elected offices, from the President of the United States to class officers in a school. You are running for class president for your grade level.

Write an essay convincing your classmates that you are the best choice for president.

Your writing should:

- Have an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- State reasons why you would make a good class president.
- Include details that support your reasons.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

AIMS Six Trait Analytic Writing Rubric – Official Scoring Guide

SENTENCE FLUENCY

<p>6</p> <p>The writing has an effective flow and rhythm. Sentences show a high degree of craftsmanship, with consistently strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a natural, fluent sound; it glides along with one sentence flowing effortlessly into the next. • extensive variation in sentence structure, length, and beginnings that add interest to the text. • sentence structure that enhances meaning by drawing attention to key ideas or reinforcing relationships among ideas. • varied sentence patterns that create an effective combination of power and grace. • strong control over sentence structure; fragments, if used at all, work well. • stylistic control; dialogue, if used, sounds natural. 	<p>5</p> <p>The writing has an easy flow and rhythm. Sentences are carefully crafted, with strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a natural, fluent sound; it glides along with one sentence flowing into the next. • variation in sentence structure, length, and beginnings that add interest to the text. • sentence structure that enhances meaning. • control over sentence structure; fragments, if used at all, work well. • stylistic control; dialogue, if used sounds natural. 	<p>4</p> <p>The writing flows; however, connections between phrases or sentences may be less than fluid. Sentence patterns are somewhat varied, contributing to ease in oral reading. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a natural sound; the reader can move easily through the piece, although it may lack a certain rhythm and grace. • some repeated patterns of sentence structure, length, and beginnings that may detract somewhat from overall impact. • strong control over simple sentence structures, but variable control over more complex sentences; fragments, if present, are usually effective. • occasional lapses in stylistic control; dialogue, if used, sounds natural for the most part, but may at times sound stilted or unnatural.
<p>3</p> <p>The writing tends to be mechanical rather than fluid. Occasional awkward constructions may force the reader to slow down or reread. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some passages that invite fluid oral reading; however, others do not. • some variety in sentences structure, length, and beginnings, although the writer falls into repetitive sentence patterns. • good control over simple sentence structures, but little control over more complex sentences; fragments, if present, may not be effective. • sentences which, although functional, lack energy. • lapses in stylistic control; dialogue, if used, may sound stilted or unnatural. 	<p>2</p> <p>The writing tends to be either choppy or rambling. Awkward constructions often force the reader to slow down or reread. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significant portions of the text that are difficult to follow or read aloud. • sentence patterns that are monotonous (e.g., subject-verb or subject-verb-object). • a significant number of awkward, choppy, or rambling constructions. 	<p>1</p> <p>The writing is difficult to follow or to read aloud. Sentences tend to be incomplete, rambling, or very awkward. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • text that does not invite—and may not even permit—smooth oral reading. • confusing word order that is often jarring and irregular. • sentence structure that frequently obscures meaning. • sentences that are disjointed, confusing, or rambling.

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Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

if I run for class President I will raise
much money as I can we will do everything
to raise money have candy sale, donuts sale,
and I will raise money for more field going
to ice skate, and to see ASU the school
and to the museum, to the zoo and other
stuff and try to get us some soda machine
and have dance on every holiday every
single holiday, and on some holiday's have
fun day were we will play all day have slip and
slide game.

Score point 1 -- Sentences tend to be incomplete, rambling, and awkward. The text does not invite smooth oral reading. Sentences are confusing.

Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

As class president I will do at least one of the things I am about to state. I will keep the room clean, so you will have a clean place to do your school work at.

2nd thing, I will try to get is snack time. So you can eat snacks, so you won't be hungry.

3rd, I will try to get is to have less test. So you will get a better grade if you freeze on test or you just don't study.

4th, I will try to talk to the principal of the school about less days of school. So you can have fun with your friends more.

5th, I will try to do is to

Writing

FINAL COPY

talk to the teacher about more freetime
in class so you will have less schoolwork.

Gth, i will try to do is to get more
free time during lunch so you can have
more time to eat and hang out with friends

And this is why you should
vote for me as class president of
the school.

Score point 2 -- The writing is choppy. Sentence patterns are monotonous: “i will try,” and “so you will (won’t, have, can, etc.)...” are repeated over and over again.



Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

Hey my fellow classmates
As you should all ready
know that I am trying
to be your Eight grade
president. My name is
and I yes I want to be
your new best friend
I think that I would
be perfect for this job. I
would ask my other president
what they think the best
Eight grade team needs. I know
that we are going to have
the best year ever. We will
do abt of things that
you my peers need. I know
what the eight grade people need
because I am in eight grade to.
I am know different then anybody
else. I know what you might want
to do for fun or anything else.
You a person who knows
what he is talking about.

Writing**FINAL COPY**

You need a kid who loves being a kid. You don't want an adult to say that you're childish now do you. You want a active kid. You want someone to have a silly shoes day, or crazy sock day, or even wild hair week, plus fun things like get the teachers with water. If you want those things that I just said put a check next to my name and it is

Score point 3 -- The writing tends to be mechanical rather than fluid. The writer falls into repetitive sentence patterns: "I would...", "I know...", "I am...", "You need...", and "you want..." Repetitive sentences lack energy. Good control over simple sentence structure.



Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

Being the President of the United States is a very difficult job, but isn't class president a challenge also. Well, I am willing to accept the challenge and become your class president.

A good president needs to show many qualities that ensures everyone that the job will be done. The first characteristic that I possess is leadership. Isn't leadership an important quality to have because I am trying to be the "leader" of the class. I have never before run for any type of office, but I show leadership everyday. If there is a problem I take a stand and try to fix it. During my after school activities I am a leader because I help motivate the team and lead it to victory. Leadership is an important part of being president.

Other attributes that I show are organization and I am smart. Everything needs to be in order. I always keep my room clean and everything is in its place. I am also very organized at school. A teacher once told me that I will have a successful year because in my world

Writing**FINAL COPY**

everything is black and white. My interpretation of what she had said is that to me everything needs to be neat and orderly, which is true. I am awarded excellent grades in school, sure sometimes I struggle, but I'm only human. I believe that I have the common sense and brains that you need to be president.

Last but not least I will include you in my decisions. Most presidents make choices based on what they want, but I won't. I want to hear what you have to say. You should make the decisions and I will just use my skills and try to make sure that you feel light hearted.

All in all, I think I would make an excellent president. I have many qualities a leader should show, now I just need you to have faith in me. I can overcome the challenge.

Score point 4 -- The writing flows. Strong control over simple sentence structure exhibits good writing. Sentence patterns are somewhat varied, contributing to ease in oral reading. "Isn't leadership an important quality to have because I am trying to be the "leader" of the class" is an example of a lapse in stylistic control.



Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

School, a six letter word that a lot of people hate to hear. Is it because we spend a good seven and half hours there or is it because they hate the environment they work in? I would like to run for Class president, so that I can correct these issues you have.

I know that being a class president has a lot of responsibility; those two words pretty much go hand-in-hand, but also you have to not be pressured by peers, or getting hammered with questions. You have to know how to keep your cool when under pressure. I can handle hard situations, and I think I can bring a lot of creative input to the student government.

The backbone of my presidency will be the people. This government will be a direct democracy; the people will help me run my terms. The people will let me know the issues I need to take care of. They are my voice, no matter what race, gender, or age they are allowed to talk to me about: wants, needs, or anything they please.

Writing

FINAL COPY

If I am elected Class president I will make sure that the 7 hours, or 8 hours, or however long you here; I'll make sure that those'll be the best few hours you have. I'll make sure that your school environment is safe and you'll feel that your learning something, no matter what it is. Elect me as your class president so you can have your problems corrected.

Score point 5 -- The writer offers sentence structure that enhances meaning. For example, the fragment works well at the beginning of the paper, and it sets the easy flow and rhythm. The writer also shows stylistic control with the repetition of sentence clauses beginning with “the people” in paragraph three. The paper has a natural, fluent sound.



Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Good Afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls! My name is _____ and I am in the running for student-body president. This school is an abundance of education and learning. I'm here today to help govern this school to the best of my ability. Our faculty and staff have already done an excellent job, but I'm here just to add to wealth and make this school the best it can possibly be.

My school means everything to me. If I am elected school president, any problems or concerns will be dealt with right up front with none else but me. From there I will make my best effort to notify someone who will help the situation, whatever it may be. Furthermore, if anyone has any private concerns, family problems, intentions, whatever, I'll keep it very confidential. I assure you, anything can be laid to rest if only you tell me about it.

On a lighter note, I have always been involved in after school activities ranging from Advanced Boys Chiro to sports programs. I also perform service hours with the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) as means to better the world we live in. Succeeding and doing well in school has always been my top priority. I'm

Writing**FINAL COPY**

received high marks in my classes ever since I can remember. My love of education is very dear to me and I hope someday you might have it, too.

I put my right foot forward when saying I want this school to be the best of the best. Obviously, we cannot have perfume in the bathrooms, ladies, or McDonald's in the cafeteria, gentlemen. But we can at least have ^{have} mirrors in our restrooms. With your help, I think we can get this and many other things accomplished.

The upmost concern I have is representing our school as it should be represented. If elected, I will attend every student council meeting flawlessly, unless extremely ill. Being punctual and not procrastinating would be another top priority this year. It would put our school in top form.

I have to say, there is a lot of good candidates this year. I wouldn't like to be in your shoes right now. It's a tough decision, but I guess I'll leave you with a prompt. Before you mark your vote, take a second to reflect on the speeches and the kind of people that each candidate is. Do you want someone who gets to class late, is careless and lazy? I don't think so, why not vote for someone who truly deserves it, someone who has ethics and integrity, someone like me? So remember vote for who has all of that and more!

Score point 6 -- Sentences show a high degree of craftsmanship. Oral reading is easy and enjoyable. Extensive variation in sentence structure, length, and beginnings add interest to the writing. The paper has an overall natural and fluent sound. "I'm here today to help govern this school to the best of my ability. Our faculty and staff have already done an excellent job, but I'm here to add to [the] wealth and make this school the best it can possibly be."